

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOME ENERGY GENERATION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Home Energy Generation Act, which will benefit individuals and small business owners who are currently producing their own energy, or wish to do so in the future. This legislation is a necessary incentive to help increase the use of environmentally sustainable technologies, and give Americans the independence and self-sufficiency they deserve.

The Home Energy Generation Act is a comprehensive "net metering" bill, which enables individuals who generate electricity using fuel cells or renewables such as wind, solar, or biomass, to receive credit for the surplus electricity they put back into the electricity grid. Credit for their excess energy generation is realized by allowing their electricity meter to literally run backwards when their energy unit is generating more energy than their household, farm, or small business is consuming.

In addition to net metering, the Home Energy Generation Act addresses many other barriers which can prevent Americans from generating their own electricity. This bill sets uniform national reliability and safety standards for interconnection of electricity generation units into the electricity grid, by utilizing private professional organizations. National standards are absolutely imperative to the development of reliable and affordable technology to interconnect. (It was national standards that allowed multiple companies, and consequently multiple technologies to interconnect into the once monopolized AT&T telephone system.)

The Home Energy Generation Act also allows retail electricity suppliers and utilities to count home energy generation capacity amongst their customers towards any renewable portfolio requirements.

This bill will function in the current electricity industry legislative structure, or in a deregulated electricity industry. It gives families, farms, and small businesses the same right as industrial generators by allowing home generators to sell their end of the year energy credit on the open market. Under a restructured industry, this will likely create a market for home generated power.

Although net metering is now allowed in 30 states, federal legislation is needed to create the national interconnectivity standards necessary to allow for safe and reliable interconnection, as well as to allow home generation industries to cost-effectively produce these technologies. In addition, this legislation is needed to resolve any uncertainty regarding state and local authority to implement net metering, since a state court has recently ruled that net metering requires explicit federal authority. This bill will provide that authority.

This bill is truly a bipartisan effort. It has been an honor for me to work with Both Congressmen ROSCOE BARTLETT of Maryland, and VERNON EHLERS of Michigan. In addition to these distinguished members, I would also like to thank the following original cosponsors to this important legislation: Mr. BRIAN BAIRD of Washington, Mr. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT of New York, Mr. EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon, Mr. MERRILL COOK of Utah, Mr. PETER DEFazio of Oregon, Mr. NORMAN DICKS of Washington, Mr. LANE EVANS of Illinois, Mr. SAM FARR of California, Mr. BOB FILNER of California, Mr. MARTIN FROST of Texas, Mr. BENJAMIN GILMAN of New York, Mr. LUIS GUTIERREZ of Illinois, Mr. MAURICE HINCHEY of New York, Mr. PATRICK KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. JAMES LEACH of Iowa, Mr. JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. JIM MCDERMOTT of Washington, Mr. JACK METCALF of Washington, Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California, Ms. NANCY PELOSI of California, Mr. TED STRICKLAND of Ohio, Mr. MARK UDALL of Colorado, Mr. TOM UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. ROBERT UNDERWOOD of Guam, and Mr. BRUCE VENTO of Minnesota.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following groups who have been so helpful in crafting this legislation. They include the Solar Energy Industry Association, American Wind Energy Industry Association, public utilities, private investor owned utilities, fuel cell advocates, and various consumer groups.

I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring the Home Energy Generation Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I was very surprised to see my vote in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on H.R. 2490, Treasury Postal Appropriations. I am certain I intended to vote "no" and did, in fact, vote "no," yet the RECORD reflects a vote of "aye" on my part. Therefore, I enter this statement into the RECORD to reflect the error that has been made with respect to this vote.

Please note that I have filed resolutions of disapproval with regard to pay raises for Members, and I have consistently voted against legislation providing for such increases.

CALVERT ALLIANCE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE: 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Calvert Alliance Against Sub-

stance Abuse, Inc., or CAASA, in celebrating its 10th Anniversary. CAASA, an organization which aims to fight substance abuse, has become a key player in reducing alcohol and drug abuse across Calvert County, Maryland. I commend CAASA for its starting as a grassroots drug prevention efforts.

It is imperative that youth are taught the dangers of drugs and alcohol at an early age. CAASA's sponsorship of numerous community activities geared towards children has encouraged them to steer away from drugs. Their support of various activities such as DARE, Just Say No Clubs, the Haunted Crack House, and many other programs have helped to keep many of the youth of Calvert County drug-free and out of trouble. By providing more school-based substance abuse programs, they have given these children alternatives to drug use.

Without the full support of the government and local communities, CAASA could not have enjoyed ten years of success. I would like to recognize community members, schools, civic and service organizations, religious groups, businesses, public agencies, and the county government for their continuous support of CAASA. This valuable partnership has enabled CAASA to reduce alcohol and drug abuse through public awareness, education, treatment, and law enforcement.

Alcohol and drug use remains a problem in both rural and urban communities across the Nation. Calvert County is fortunate to have such a valuable resource. I congratulate CAASA on 10 years of service and wish it all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF KHALSA PANTH'S BIRTH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Khalsa Panth's 300th birth anniversary. Khalsa Panth was born April 13, 1699 and is a figure of the Sikh community.

The purpose of founding the Khalsa was to spread righteousness and to uproot the repression and injustice; to create love and harmony amongst humankind and to end evil hatred. Khalsa stands for gender equality; to instill self-confidence; to live a humble life with self-respect and serve the society as its honorable Sant Sipahi.

The guidelines to the Sikh religion are as follows: Sikh's must have honest earnings, worship only one god, and share with the needy. They may only perform Sikh religious ceremonies and should meditate on God's name everyday. Sikh's must not commit any one of the four misdeeds: cutting or shaving of the hair, drinking alcohol, using any intoxicant, and using adultery. Sikh's must give service to the religious congregation without expecting

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